



Where do we
go from
here?

Libraries after the COVID-19
Pandemic



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Deep breaths!



Uncertainty Phased restoration

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Some good news

- Books and DVDs are relatively safe
- Library materials in general aren't expected to spread any virus
- Our roles in the Great Recession will likely revive
- We have proven to be resilient
- We have continued to provide reliable information

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Axes of Uncertainty

Libraries are empty, staff are overwhelmed with requests for computers, but people are leery of each other

COVID 19 leads to a reduction in the labor supply

Libraries are overwhelmed with people who are unemployed and need computers/materials

People want to continue social distancing

People crave interactions

Libraries are no longer physical gathering places, but demand for materials is high

COVID 19 does not lead to a reduction in the labor supply

Libraries are bustling community centers and patrons seek recreational materials

Amy Webb,
Futurist

– [How to Do Strategic Planning Like a Futurist](#) (Harvard Business Review, July 30, 2019)(available from INSPIRE)

– [How Futurists Cope with Uncertainty](#) (Medium.com, March 11, 2020)

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What we can do

- Walmart’s limit of 5 people per 1,000 square feet of floor space
- Remove or move chairs and public computers
- Floor stickers for line formation distances
- Curbside/no contact service for a limited time
- No programs or public meetings for a limited time
- Does it make sense to continue any of the telework practices?

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Resources

- Colorado Library Consortium, Returning to Service <https://www.clicweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Libraries-Returning-to-Service-and-COVID-19.pdf>
- Indiana State Library, Libraries and COVID-19 page, <https://www.in.gov/library/COVID.htm>
- PLA survey, <http://www.ala.org/pla/issues/covid-19/surveyoverview>
- Purdue Extension Services, COVID-19 Resources page, <https://cdext.purdue.edu/collaborative-projects/olgcovid19/>
- Webb, A. (2020) “How Futurists Cope with Uncertainty. Medium.com <https://medium.com/swlh/how-futurists-cope-with-uncertainty-a4fdbff4b8c6>
- Webb, A. (2019) “How To Do Strategic Planning Like a Futurist.” *Harvard Business Review*. p. 2-7.

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